

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 AF-10

ARA-11 EA-11 NEA-10 OIC-04 RSR-01 /225 W

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R 281731 Z JUN 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5432

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD GATT

SUBJ: GATT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

REF: A. STATE 122818 B. GENEVA 3069

1. SUMMARY: EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR PHAN VAN PHI
(EXTERNAL RELATIONS) WILL BE THE COMMUNITY SPOKESMAN
FOR MOST OF THE GATT PREPCOM WITH HIJZEN EXPECTED
TO TAKE OVER DURING THE FINAL WEEK. HIJZEN AND HIS
COLLEAGUES LIKE THE LONG REPORT BUT RECOGNIZE THAT
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IT PROBABLY CANNOT BE THE BASIS FOR A DRAFT DECLARATION FOR TOKYO. THEY ARE " OPEN- MINDED" BUT CAUTIOUS ABOUT A SMALL DRAFTING GROUP TO WORK ON A DECLARATION AND HAVE " MODEST" EXPECTATIONS ABOUT HOW MUCH DETAILED AGREEMENT WILL BE POSSIBLE IN GENEVA. END SUMMARY.

2. EC COMMISSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL THEODORUS HIJZEN INFORMED THE MISSION ON JUNE 27 THAT THE COMMISSION' S OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO THE GATT PREPCOM WOULD CONSIST OF HIMSELF, PHAN VAN PHI, AND ABBOTT, ALL OF THE COMMISSION' S DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS. HIJZEN EXPECTS THAT HE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, SPEND THE ENTIRE TIME IN GENEVA. HE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE THERE THE WEEK OF JULY 2 NOR JULY 9 UNLESS SPECIFIC IMPORTANT ISSUES AROSE. HE DOES EXPECT, HOWEVER, TO ATTEND DURING THE LAST WEEK.

3. PHAN VAN PHI WOULD LEAD THE DELEGATION IN HIJZEN' S ABSENCE AND EXPECTS TO BE IN GENEVA THE ENTIRE TIME. ABBOTT WOULD PROBABLY NORMALLY REMAIN AT GENEVA BUT WOULD VISIT BACK AND FORTH TO BRUSSELS. THESE THREE WOULD BE ASSISTED BY OTHER COMMISSION STAFF BASED AT GENEVA.

4. MISSION OFFICERS ASKED HIJZEN WHETHER THE EC WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN A SMALL DRAFTING GROUP TO PREPARE A DECLARATION FOR TOKYO. HIJZEN SAID THAT HE IS OPEN- MINDED ON THE QUESTION OF A SMALL DRAFTING GROUP, BUT THE FINAL EC POSITION WOULD DEPEND UPON THE SITUATION AS IT DEVELOPS IN GENEVA. HIJZEN WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT HE BELIEVES THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT IS TO HAVE THE MINISTERS IN TOKYO FIRMLY ENDORSE NEGOTIATIONS IN A MANNER THAT WILL GENERATE MOMENTUM AND REFLECT THE NECESSARY POLITICAL WILL. HE PERSONALLY CONCEIVES OF THE PREPCOM AS AN OCCASION FOR THE VARIOUS DELEGATIONS TO PUSH AS FAR AS THEY CAN TOWARD AGREEMENT BUT HE CONSIDERS THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO TRY TO FORCE TOO GREAT A DEGREE OF DETAILED AGREEMENT PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS WILL ONLY CAUSE A HARDENING OF POSITIONS PREMATURELY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THE COMMUNITY AT ANY RATE HAS OBVIOUS LIMITS ON HOW FAR IT CAN GO. HE BELIEVES THAT THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IS THAT OF PERSUADING THE LDCS NOT TO INSIST UPON DETAILED PRENEGOTIATIONS NOW.

5. HIJZEN SAID HE DOES NOT THINK THE LONG REPORT IS A BAD ONE BUT RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS

PROBABLY NOT A PRACTICABLE BASIS OF OR A MINISTERIAL
DECLARATION. HE UNDERSTANDS WHY LONG, AS THE GATT
DIRECTOR GENERAL, WOULD PUSH TO SETTLE AS MANY
DETAILS AS POSSIBLE NOW BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS.
HOWEVER, HIJZEN DOUBTS THAT IT WOULD SERVE A USEFUL
PURPOSE TO TRY TO LIMIT AT THIS STAGE THE POSSIBILITIES
FOR METHODS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

6. PHAN VAN PHI SAID THAT DURING THE FIRST FEW DAYS
OF GENERAL DISCUSSIONS, HE DOUBTED HE WOULD HAVE MUCH
TO SAY SINCE HE WOULD BE LIMITED TO A CLOSE PARAPHRASE
OF THE EC OVERVIEW FOR MTN. HE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING
WHETHER THE US PLANS A GENERAL STATEMENT AND ANYTHING WE
CAN SAY ABOUT ITS CONTENT. GREENWALD

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